

# COUNTY FOREST VARIABLE ACREAGE AND PROJECT LOANS

## **Authorization:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** ss. 20.370(5)(bq)(bs) and 28.11(8)(b), Wis. Stats.

**Project Loans:** ss. 20.370(5)(bt)(bu) and 28.11(8)(b), Wis. Stats.

## **Budget:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** \$622,400 annually from the Forestry Account of the Conservation Fund.

**Project Loans:** \$400,000 annually from the forestry account of the Conservation Fund. In addition, an estimated \$1,500,000 in severance share repayments which may be available to be loaned.

**Objective:** Provide interest-free loans to counties for forestry operations on lands under the County Forest Law.

**Eligibility:** Counties having land enrolled under the County Forest Law.

## **Level of Assistance:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** Determined by the DNR after December 31 each year based on dollar amounts requested. A county may request up to \$.50/acre of eligible county forest lands. Requests in excess of available funds will be prorated.

**Project Loans:** Determined by the DNR after each of the first two application periods (August 15 and December 1). After December 2, first come, first served. Individual loans may not exceed 25% of available funds for any one year.

## **Priorities:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** County determines project priority.

## **Project Loans:**

1<sup>st</sup> Preference: Land acquisition

2<sup>nd</sup> Preference: Land management activities

3<sup>rd</sup> Preference: Land information activities

4<sup>th</sup> Preference: Capital purchases and improvements

**Eligible Types of Projects:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** Forestry projects on land enrolled under the County Forest Law.

**Project Loans:** Economically productive forest operations consistent with the Comprehensive Land Management Plan. Projects may not be used for recreational facilities or fish/wildlife projects.

**Applications:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** Requests must be submitted to the DNR via county board resolution by December 31 of each year.

**Project Loans:** Request deadlines are August 15 and December 1 of each year. December 2 and later, requests are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Date of Payments:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** Payments made on or before March 31 of each year.

**Project Loans:** Payment made upon project completion, unless an advance payment has been requested. A 75% advance payment is available with mutual agreement of the applicant and the DNR.

**History:**

**Variable Acreage Loans:** These loans have been available since 1980 for use in acquiring, developing, preserving or maintaining county forest lands. Annually, \$600,000 - \$620,000 is distributed. Loans are repaid through a 20% severance tax on forest products harvested off of County Forest lands.

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